

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN NEW YORK

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTO 25005

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, NL, EG

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECSTATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER

1. PLEASE TRANSMIT THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO
FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT. DEAR MAX: I AM WRITING TO YOU IN THE
NETHERLANDS' CAPACITY AS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES PRESIDENCY
ABOUT A PROBLEM FOR WHICH I AM SURE WE SHARE CONCERN. IT
RELATES TO THE PROGRESSIVE AND STABILIZING ROLE PLAYED BY
EGYPT IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND EGYPT'S CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE IN
ASSURING A HEALTHY COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE REGION.

3. AS YOU ARE AWARE, PRESIDENT SADAT INHERITED MAJOR ECO-
NOMIC PROBLEMS. HIS GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN THAT IT WISHES TO
FOCUS ITS ATTENTION ON RECONSTRUCTION, ECONOMIC STABILITY
AND GROWTH. WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE A DIFFICULT BUT NOT
IMPOSSIBLE TASK, ESPECIALLY IF EGYPT RECEIVES SUFFICIENT
ASSISTANCE.

4. AS YOU ARE ALSO AWARE, EGYPT LACKS SUFFICIENT FOREIGN
EXCHANGE TO SUSTAIN ITS ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND UNDERTAKE A
LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. EGYPT NEEDS IMMEDIATE FI-
NANCIAL SUPPORT TO COVER ITS REQUIREMENTS EVEN FOR THE
CURRENT STANDARD OF LIVING OF ITS PEOPLE.

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5. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE HAVE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL COMMITMENT TO ASSIST EGYPT. OUR BILATERAL PROGRAMS WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT 900 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR AND WE PLAN THE SAME LEVEL FOR THE COMING FISCAL YEAR. AS PART OF OUR ASSISTANCE, WE ARE GIVING EGYPT DURING THIS FISCAL YEAR AND TRANSITIONAL QUARTER 1.25 MILLION TONS OF WHEAT AND FLOUR ON VIRTUALLY GRANT TERMS, 40 YEAR REPAYMENT, 10 YEAR GRACE PERIOD, 2 TO 3 PERCENT INTEREST.

6. IT WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL IF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES COULD FIND WAYS OF PROVIDING A SUBSTANTIAL ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF FOOD AID TO EGYPT DURING THESE DIFFICULTIES.

7. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CANDID VIEWS ON THESE MATTERS AND WOULD FIND GREAT VALUE IN HEARING FROM YOU.

8. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. END MESSAGE.
KISSINGER

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